

**PIKES PEAK
RADIO AMATEUR
ASSOCIATION
(PPRAA)**

Activities/Meetings

- Ham Breakfast
La Tartine
1420 Kelly Johnson Blvd
6 September 2014
DAny time between
8:00 AM and 9:30 AM
- PPRAA Board Mtg
Mon, September 8th
Daniel's Taco
- PPRAA Membership Mtg
Wed. September 10th
IHOP 5749 Stetson Hills
Bvd
- 10 Meter/2 Meter net
Every Thursday 7:00 pm
28.290 MHz—USB
144.200 MHz—USB

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Volume 64 Issue 9

September 2014

PPRAA Club Station—Antenna committee report

The PPRAA Antenna Group consist of Jim Rader, KDØNQM; John Bloodgood, KDØSFY; Dan Martin, KDØSMP; Jim Harris, WØEM.

The group has put forth considerable effort via email and research to provide a safe, intelligent and workable plan to the club. To that end we have drafted a document consisting of topic areas such as objective, requirements, safety, coordination and other general topics.

We have minor updates to complete in most of the above topics. We are currently looking at types of antennas with an eye to scheduling their installation. We are looking at pricing the installation of some antennas as part of tradeoffs in selecting antennas.

We have found that much of the equipment we have on hand will require some sort of maintenance along with additional parts to make them usable. This may require significant funds from the club to make them functional and install them. To keep cost as low as possible we are working to obtain used electrical power poles for some antenna supports. We will continue to evaluate tower/Yagi installations considering any limitations in no. 2 below.

We are making the following recommendations to the board

and will incorporate them into the plan consistent with board recommendations.

1. Until the Land Use Agreement is signed both by the property owner and the club, only "field day" type antennas will be used at the site. They will be taken down after each event.
2. The Land Use Agreement with the owner will be for five years. Concrete will not be poured and consequently no towers will be erected if the signed agreement is for less than five years. This is driven by the labor intensive process and cost of removing concrete from the ground should the agreement be terminated and the site vacated in less than five years. Hopefully, towers and associated antennas will receive enough use in five years to justify installing them knowing the effort and cost to remove them if the agreement is not renewed.

3. If the plan is signed stipulating less than five years we are evaluating the three following antenna options.

- a. Two G5RV antennas for 80 -6m, 102' long. Supported by a common electric type pole in the center. With one antenna 30 x 210 degrees and the second at 150 x 330 degrees. Electric type

poles would be used for end supports. A 2m/70cm antenna on the top of the common pole. The two G5RV antennas would give near 360 degree coverage.

- b. Horizontal Loop for 80-6 meters. Research finds this can be tuned to sub-multiples of it's lowest frequency/frequencies .
- c. Orthogonal (crossed) Dipoles . We are further researching this antenna but it appears to hold promise.

We would like to have the plan ready for first board review by the next board meeting. We have three major efforts to finish. One, price out tower and Yagi installation. Two, decide which type wire antennas to install and third is to price out the wire antenna installation.

We will continue to work the open items and incorporate them into the plan.

Respectively submitted,

73,

Jim H., WØEM





PPRAA special event operation.

PPRAA Officers and Board of Directors

PPRAA Board of Directors consists of four elected officers, seven board members, as well the past president (time limit dependent). The Ø-Beat editor is a board appointed position and is also a member of the board.

Officers include:

- ⇒ President
- ⇒ Vice-President
- ⇒ Secretary
- ⇒ Treasurer

To send board member's email, browse to the officers section of our website: <http://ppraa.org/about-ppraa/officers>

President	Michael Derbort	KCØELG
Vide-President	Jim Bishop	KDØKQL
Secretary	John Wishart	NGØI
Treasurer	Pam Scott	WØPRS
Board Member	Doug Nielsen	N7LEM
Board Member	Tom Brereton	WØTOM
Board Member	Jim Rader	KDØNQM
Board Member	Diana Nordstrom	KCØNPP
Board Member	Jim Harris	WØEM
Board Member	Virgil Yost	NØXRS
Board Member	Chris Schroeder	KDØUQI
Ø-Beat Editor	Dan Scott	WØRO

Online Resources

PPRAA Website

<http://ppraa.org>

The PPRAA website is the cornerstone for club related information, events, and technical information.

In addition you can register, pay dues, and submit donations. Donations to the PPRAA college scholarship fund are managed by FAR Scholarship Committee

Facebook / Google+

Follow activities as they unfold, or get reminders of upcoming events.

Links to both Facebook and Google+ social media sites can be found on the PPRAA.org.

Or from each social media site search on: Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

PPRAA Forums

The PPRAA forums are intended to allow users to exchange of ideas, ask and answer amateur radio related questions, and plan/discuss upcoming events.

This is a fantastic, but underutilized, tool.

Check it out and register at: PPRAA.Forumotion.net

Monthly Activities

Membership Meeting

Held the 2nd Wednesday of the month starting at 7:00.

IHOP
5749 Stetson Hills Blvd
(Just west of Powers Blvd)

Next meeting is
September 10th 7 pm

NOTE: Many show up at 6 pm for kibitzing and grub.

Board Meeting

Daniel's Taco Shop
6:30pm—8:00pm
On the Monday preceding the membership meeting.
The location is:
6817 Space Village Ave
(Just outside the north gate of Peterson AFB)
Board Meetings are open to all members.

Ham Breakfast

Location changes monthly

La Tantine
1420 Kelly Johnson Blvd
6 September 2014
Anytime between
8:00-9:30 AM

10 Meter/2 Meter Net

Every Thursday at 7pm
Starts on 28.390 USB then transitions to 2 Meter SSB at 144.200 USB.

Meeting Presentation Topics

Last Meeting

Fred Lloyd, AA7BQ founder and CEO of QRZ.COM. Fred visited our June general membership meeting and returned to speak at the August meeting. He gave a very interesting talk about the how QRZ started and what it has become. It was great to meet Fred and his wife Robin.



September 10th

Public Information Officer (PIO) for ARES Region 2 District 2, Colorado ARES will be the September speaker.



October 8th

PPRAA Elections!
If you are interested in becoming an officer or board member please let the board know of your intentions!



Fred Lloyd, founder and CEO of QRZ.com speaking at the August PPRAA meeting

COQP

The 2014 Colorado QSO Party is over. Thank you to all that participated.

Entries must be received (or postmarked for mailed in logs) no later than September 27, 2014.

See our web site at
<http://ppraa.org/coqp>
for additional information.

PPRAA Club Station

To getting the club station to the next level three committees were formed.

1. Antenna committee with Jim Harris, W0EM, as the chairman.
2. Building committee with Jim Bishop, KD0KQL, as the chairman.
3. Electrical committee with Doug Nielsen, N7LEM, as the chairman.

If you would like to be included on a committee please contact one of these committee chairman or send an email to:

trailer@ppraa.org

Zero Beat

If you have a short article, or some amateur radio related information, please forward it to ZeroBeat@ppraa.org.

I hope people are enjoying reading the ØBeat! It does take a bit of effort to put together. The more articles that I get the easier it is to publish.

I am looking for pictures related to Pikes Peak, including pictures of Pikes Peak, related pictures including wildlife, flora or Pikes Peak related activities.

When emailing articles or pictures, please include “[ØBeat]” in the email description. I just makes it easier for me.



*Pam as an HT at the Rocky Mountain Division convention.
With Stu and James.*



PPRAA Board Meeting Minutes—10 August 2014

Present: Michael Derbort, Pam & Dan Scott, Virgil Yost, Jim Bishop, Diana Nordstrom, Jim Rader, Jim Harris, John Wishart, Tom Brereton, Doug Nielsen, John Bloodgood, Chris Schroeder

President Michael Derbort called the meeting to order at 6:37PM at Daniel's Taco Shop Restaurant.

July board meeting minutes were approved as published.

2014 Goals & Objectives - no changes in G&O

1. New Leadership

2. Financials

- Members - 20 more paying members is our goal (150 total)
- Megafest - \$2500 profit is our goal.

1. Club Station - goal: at least one operating position and the building completed.

2. Special Events

- Special events station for the 100th anniversary of ARRL at the Megafest operating as W1AW/0. We would also like to have another special events station on July 12-13.
- 75 yrs of service for our club
- Scouting event -

Committee Reports

Treasurer's Report - Pam

reported that we have a bank balance of \$15,924 as of 31 July 2014.

Megafest report - 502 attendance. 94 tables sold. Net income was \$2723.53. The Commons area was a plus in encouraging people to stay around.

Building Committee -

Station Building - Jim/Chris moved/seconded to appoint a committee to study the station tower/antenna situation and make a recommendation to the Board. Passed. Jim Harris, Jim Rader, & John Bloodgood volunteered to be on the committee.

Solar Panels & Power - need to procure a charge controller and 1 or 2 deep cycle batteries to start. Also a "Rig Runner" power panel for 12V distribution. We would like to have the option of running from batteries, 120 VAC utility power, or generator 120VAC.

We will also form an Electrical committee to handle the power situation planning. Doug Nielsen has volunteered to head this up.

Land Use Agreement - Brad has agreed to the latest revision. Not yet signed, however.

Annual Picnic is August 16, 10AM-2PM, at Memorial Park Pavilion B. Motion made/seconded to approve up to \$250 for picnic. Passed.

Electronic Media - updated with latest events. Facebook page is drawing a lot of interest.

CO QSO Party is August 30.

Asset Committee - we have received several antenna & tower donations.

Scholarship Fund

\$948.69 is the amount in the fund for 2014-15 school year at present.

Zero Beat

Zero Beat is looking good. Dan noted that he still needs short articles of interest from members. Please submit articles and pictures to Dan at zerobeat@ppraa.org.

Saturday Ham Breakfast

New location: La Tartine, 1420 Kelly Johnson Blvd. September 6, 8-9:30AM

ARES

Jim Bishop reported on several local events that need ARES volunteer support. See local ARES website for info:

www.pparcs.org. The link to the volunteer web page is <http://216.161.57.107/ARESPSE>.

Technical Education - still looking for General class volunteer instructors for the various phases of the General class course.

New Business

No new items.

Unfinished Business

None.

Upcoming Events

Ham Breakfast - 1st Sat in August (the 2nd) at 8AM -- Omelets, Etc. on 8th St. near post office.

Next Board Meeting: Monday, August 11, at Daniel's Taco Shop.

Annual Picnic - Aug 16 at Memorial Park

Around The Table

John Bloodgood - CO antenna bill was passed. Going to have webinar on the PRB on Wed evening. Lighthouse project is ongoing.

Jim Rader - do we need to have the batteries in an insulated compartment - yes. Would like to get started on the selection of raffle prizes.

Doug N. - has documentation for all the donated antennas & towers.

Chris S. - passed out a draft of an operational plan for next year's Field Day. Volunteered to head up FD next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Wishart NG0I

Secretary

23 August 2014

PPRAA General Meeting Minutes—13 August 2014

President Michael Derbort called the PPRAA general meeting to order at 7:00 PM at IHOP Restaurant at 5749 Stetson Hills Blvd., Colorado Springs, CO.

Silent Keys – Linda Hill KØLLH and Jim Patterson NØUVU

July minutes were approved as published.

2014 Goals and Objectives

- no changes

New leadership

Financials - Add 20 new paying members, make \$2500 on

Megafest

Club station - at least one operating position permanently online, trailer completed

Special Events

- 75 years of service by our club - July 12-13 at our club station

- Scouting event - date is TBD

Committee Reports

2014 Megafest - spent less on prizes, sold more raffle tickets resulting in more net income (~\$2700)

Motion made & seconded to allow up to \$2500 for 2015 Megafest raffle prizes. Passed. Pam would like suggestions on what to get for raffle prizes.

Treasurer's Report - Pam stated we had \$15,924 in our bank accounts as of 31 July 2014.

Field Day - we had a successful event, but were unable to submit logs due to technical difficulties. Chris Schoeder will

be the chairperson again next year.

Club Station - we have received several significant donations - antennas, towers, etc. We are forming committees to evaluate these assets and plan for installation. Antenna committee, electrical committee, and a building committee have been formed.

Doug Nielsen reported on preparations for our annual **club picnic** this coming Sat at Memorial Park.

Moved/seconded to form an overall planning committee with Scott as chairman. Passed.

Electronic Media - Doug reported on recent updates to our websites and social media sites.

Tech Ed - Dan Scott reported that we are setting up a General exam class. He needs more instructors for the class.

Zero Beat - Dan needs more articles for the publication. Email to zerobeat@ppraa.org Deadline for this month is Aug 23.

VE Report - Dan Martin reported that the October license exam session is coming up.

ARES Update

Jim Bishop reported on local ARES events and upcoming activities that need volunteers. ARES website is

www.pparcs.org. The volunteer link is <http://216.161.57.107/ARESPSE>. You need to be an ARES member to participate.

John Bloodgood noted that HB4969 PRB-I legislation has been introduced in the US House of Representatives.

Scholarship Fund

Please donate to our college scholarship fund for the upcoming school year. Tax-deductible donations can be made via PayPal on the PPRAA website (www.ppraa.org).

PPRAA Annual Picnic - August 16, 10AM-2pm, lunch at noon, bring side dish, salad or dessert. Memorial Park, Pavilion B.

CO QSO Party - Saturday, August 30. This is a BIG special event and sponsored by our club. Please get on the air for this one!

Volunteer Examiner (VE) Report

VE session is on the second Saturday of even months. Next one is 2nd Saturday, October 11, at 9AM at Colorado Technical University, Room 100. Our club Members are encouraged to get qualified to be a Volunteer Examiner. It's an open book exam, with the Volunteer Examiner Manual available as a PDF for study and reference on the arrl.org website.

Elections

Coming up in October. If you are interested in an officer or board position, please let a board member or officer know.

Program

QRZ.com founder, Fred Lloyd AA7BQ, spoke about the background of the QRZ.com website.

Upcoming Events / Notices

Ham Breakfast - Saturday, Sept 6. La Tatine on Kelly Johnson Blvd., 8-10AM

Thursday Night Net: On the air every Thursday, 7PM, at 28.390 MHz (USB, 10 meter band, vertically polarized). The next

net is #298.

Christmas Party

Will vote on location next meeting.

The club election is coming up in October. If you are interested in becoming a club officer or board member, please contact a member of the board or officer.

Next Meeting: 7PM, Wednesday, September 10 2014, IHOP Restaurant, Stetson Hills Blvd. & Powers. (2nd Wed of the month)

Next Board Meeting: 6:30PM, Monday, 8 September 2014, Daniel's Taco Shop. (Monday before the 2nd Wed of the month)

Respectfully Submitted,

John Wishart NG0I

Secretary

23 August 2014



TUNING AN ANTENNA



ISOTRON 20/15/10

ISOTRON 80/40 GET READY FOR THE FALL HF SEASON <http://www.isotronantennas.com/>

The most common way to check the tuning of your antenna is by a Standing Wave Ratio (SWR) measurement.

I have noticed for several years there may be some confusion of how to properly obtain this measurement from the modern radios.

Some of this confusion is due to not understanding what "Mode Of Transmission" means. This can be even more confusing when most of the radios are all mode units.

Most likely you have LSB, USB, AM, CW, FM and FSK or RTTY. Boy, that is a lot of modes. Which ones do you use to check SWR?

Hopefully in future articles more details will be provided on each mode. However, for now, we just need the basics so you can use the radio effectively.

If your radio has a SWR meter built into it, then this will be the reading preferred. An outboard meter is fine, but the one in the radio is what the radio is going to use. If the

SWR in the radio is high it will reduce your output power. Power reduction can easily be 50 to 90 percent. What is the best way to confirm this?

This is where knowing what mode to use is necessary.

USB and LSB modes do not produce RF energy unless you talk or make noise into the microphone. If you key the mic and all is quiet, there is no power out. I have had the humorous experience of operators saying the SWR is 1:1. However they were on USB or LSB and all was quiet. The meter reads nothing because there is no power out.

Many realize this. Their solution is to moan and groan or whistle into the mic. This will put power out, but it jumps around so much it is hard to get an accurate reading.

Some have put the radio in the CW mode. They key the mic and are happy to see a 1:1 SWR. However, they have not realized that their radio does not put power out on CW from the mic switch. A code key is needed for some radios.

Now there is the AM, FM and FSK modes.

AM is OK, but it does not put full power out. Initially you want to check SWR at low power anyway. The mic button will activate the radio. When you have your SWR acceptable, you will want to confirm that the radio will put the full power out. You can not do this on AM.

What about FM or FSK? Some have been hesitant to switch to these modes because they are not in the portion of the band it is allowed.

On FM, if you do not make any noise into the mic, it only produces a carrier. This is legal. On FSK or RTTY, it only produces a carrier. These are the easiest modes to use to check SWR.

Start at low power (5 watts). Using the internal SWR meter check SWR and make the necessary adjustments to the antenna. Once acceptable, bring up the power. Use your "Relative Power Meter" in the radio. If you can get it to go full scale, you are ready to operate.

Your questions are welcome. I will try and answer them in future articles. Email me at wd0eja@isotronantennas.com

73,
Ralph WD0EJA

W1AW/Ø Centennial QSO Party—Colorado Operation

W1AW/0 Centennial QSO Party

- ♦ Jan 1, 2014 thru Dec 31, 2014
- ♦ September 10-17 2014 - Colorado Activation

The Centennial QSO Party is made-up of two main activities:

- ♦ W1AW operating portable in each state and most territories;
- ♦ The Centennial Points Challenge which is the accumulation of points from qualifying contacts made throughout 2014.

For more see the PPRAA home page

Central States VHF Society—2015

Hi all!
The Central States VHF Society is pleased to announce that its Annual Conference for 2015 will be held in the Denver Colorado Metro area.

We are currently working to deliver an exceptional lineup of technical programs with presenters from across the country.

Technical proceedings will be published and made available at the conference. Anyone wishing to submit a paper, or propose a technical session topic, should contact the Conference Vice President John Maxwell, WØVG.

johnm@johnmaxwell.net

As with all conferences, we will also offer the traditional social activities; noise figure measurement, antenna range, Rover vehicle show and tell, luncheons and a banquet.

The local host for 2015 will be Rocky Mountain Ham Radio. The organizing team is working to bring a "Colorado Flare" to the event.

We are considering a number of social activities that build relationships between Colorado locals and visiting CSVHFS members.

Operating events from local mountain top locations are being considered. Stay tuned. We will continue to offer the VHF101 program for those looking to get started with VHF and UHF weak signal operation. These sessions will be promoted locally and designed to encourage newer hams to get involved in weak

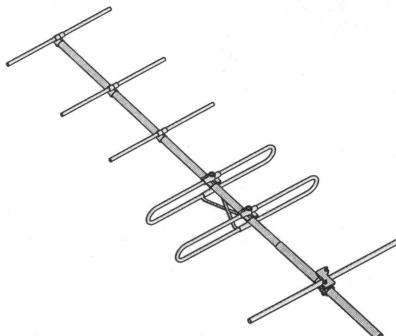
Doug Sharp, K2AD (doug@dougsharp.com) or Wayne Heinen, NØPOH (n0poh@wayneheinen.com) We hope to see you in Denver in 2015!

73,
Doug Sharp, K2AD
CSVHFS President
John Maxwell, WØVG
CSVHFS Vice President
Wayne Heinen, NØPOH
CSVHFS Conference 2015
Communications and
Registration
Jeff Ryan, KØRM
CSVHFS Conference 2015
Venue Coordinator



signal operation on the VHF+ bands.

At this time planning is underway for a suitable venue with all the amenities that CSVHFS conference attendees are accustomed to enjoying. Firm dates and facility location will be announced as soon as they are secured. Anyone desiring additional information may contact



PPFMA repeater
146.97 online

PPRAA board
member Chris
Schroeder, KDØUQI,
added the PPFMA
repeater to
broadcastify.com.

By following the link below you can now listen to the 146.97 repeater from your computer.

Link to the feed :
[http://
www.broadcastify.co
m/listen/feed/17666](http://www.broadcastify.com/listen/feed/17666)

Upcoming hamfests

- Sep 13 Pueblo Hamfest (Pueblo, CO)
- Sep 13 Pecos Valley Radio Club Tailgate (Roswell, NM)
- Sep 28 BARCfest (Longmont, CO)
- Oct 11 Bridgerland ARC Swaptoberfest (Logan, UT)
- Oct 18 Socorro Hamfest (Socorro, NM)
- Feb 8 The Swapfest (Brighton, CO)

Links to websites belonging to the above events are found on the Rocky Mountain Division site: www.RockyMountainDivision.org





Should QSOs from remote station be given DXCC credit?

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

In July, the DX Advisory Committee Report recommended several rules changes for the DXCC program (http://www.arrl.org/files/file/About%20ARRL/Committee%20Reports/2014/July/Doc_27.pdf). Among them, was a recommendation that rule I.9 be changed such that a QSO is acceptable for DXCC credit only when the remote station and the operator's home station location are no more than 200 km apart.

As with any rule change, this precipitated a lot of comment in the amateur radio community. A thread on the eHam.Net forum (<http://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php/topic,98348.30.html>) got quite a few comments. N7NG had a nice blog post (<http://n7ng.wordpress.com/2014/03/05/remote-control-dxing-and-dxcc/>) on this controversy.

Perhaps the most strident post on this topic was written by WWIX (<http://wwix.com/opinion/2014/08/14/in-defense-of-remote-dxcc.html>). He called these recommendations "uninformed, misguided, and detrimental to the future of our hobby." Detrimental to the future of our hobby? Seriously?

Of course, WWIX has a vested interest in this debate. He's the lead developer for RemoteHamRadio.com, a company that charges other hams to use the "super stations" that they've set up around the world.

Note that the DX Advisory Committee is not saying that amateur radio operators should not use and enjoy these

remote stations. All they're saying is that the QSOs made with them, unless they are located less than 200 km from an amateur's home station, are not eligible for DXCC credit. I'm sure that if you asked any of the members of the committee they would agree with WWIX that the remote stations serve a very useful purpose for amateurs who are not able to set up their own home stations.

WWIX prattles on about how "DXCC is not a contest. It's not a competition. There are no winners or losers. It's a personal achievement award, plain and simple." This is just silly. Of course it's a competition. As N7NG rightly points out if it's not a competition, why publish the DXCC Honor Roll?

What I think is detrimental to the hobby are hams who use RemoteHamRadio.Com to simply add to their DXCC scores. I see no sense in doing so, and furthermore, where's the personal achievement? Anyone who can afford to pay what they charge—and it's not a small sum of money—can work the rarest DX with one of those stations.

A friend of mine, Mark, W8MP, is a RemoteHamRadio.Com customer, and it's a boon for him. He loves being able to work DX from his home in a development where no outside antennas are allowed. He's not trying to pad his DXCC score. He does this for the pure love of talking to other hams in far-away places.

When the final decision is made, I hope the DX Advisory Committee goes back to first principles as set forth in FCC Part 97.1 and makes their

decision on whether or not allowing DXCC credit for remote station QSOs contributes to "the advancement of the radio art" or is an "extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill."

When he's not writing this column for club newsletters, Dan, KB6NU enjoys working CW on the HF bands and teaching ham radio classes. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

South Pole Operation

KC4AAA – Amundsen – Scott South Pole station has begun digital operations. We are up on JT65, PSK-31 and RTTY. We have completed testing and have worked a hand full of stations. We tend to operate now, from 0200 to 0300UTC, as it seems to be the best time for propagation into North America. I have been up around 1500 UTC, working into Europe. Look me up on QRZ and follow KC4AAA on Facebook. We intend to give more info on operating times and freqs. We also operate CW.

Found on kb6nu.com



K2PO—Remote Ham Radio

2014 Colorado QSO Party-WØPRS, WØRO, WØRGD

By: Dan, WØRO
The Colorado QSO Party kind of snuck up on us this year. We really did not make any plans, other than we were going to operate.

We had several options to choose from such as operating from the space telescope location in south eastern Colorado. Other options included operating from the PPRAA club station; from home; portable at a county line; or operating mobile.

We decided to operate mobile and invited Gordon, WØRGD along. We ruled out the Toyota Prius. It is not the best HF mobile car.

This left operating from the 2014 Jeep Grand Cherokee. The Jeep had not yet been outfitted with radios or antennas. So Friday evening and Saturday morning of COQP was getting the Jeep ready.

Because it is a newer vehicle it is not a good idea to connect to the convenient battery

located under the front passenger seat.

There are two obvious reasons on modern cars:

1. A battery not under the hood is often charged with higher voltage than normal. An IC-7000 transceiver in another installation with a similar battery configuration was damaged so I did not want to take that chance.

2. The battery monitoring system now on vehicles are measuring charge rates, discharge rates, taking intermittent capacitance measurements, and much more. Direct battery, the old norm, is now a bad thing.

We bypassed these issues using a 100 amp deep cycle battery.

We connected the 100 amp battery to the IC-7000. For the antenna we used a heavy magnetic mount and helical-coil type antennas for 10 meters through 40 meters. After using the Rig Export to check and retune the antennas, we were on our way.

The trip started by picking Gorgon, WØRGD, up at 10:00AM. Then trying to

operate on our way south on I25. This did not work because by then 40-meters appeared to have died out. Stopping at the first rest area I changed the antenna and then headed down the road. Still no contacts.

The problem was resolved during a geocaching event in Pueblo. I discovered that when I thought I changed from the 40mtr to 20mtr antenna, I had actually ended up just putting the 40mtr back on. Duh!

First contact 01:59 PM local time (WIAW/7). Finally! Great signals, great signal reports, then the second problem hit. Very choppy signals being received and strange SWR. Stopped a few times and everything looked perfect. Also, when stopped we had excellent signal reports both ways.

Gordon: "Look at the shadow, it looks like it is kind of bouncing."

Dan: "Let's stop and rotate the mount so the 2 magnets are toward the front." Problem resolved with a constant ground via the magnetic mount.

We operated from Pueblo, Huerfano, Las Animas, Costilla, Alamosa, Saquache, Chaffee, and Fremont counties.

We had great signals with a lot of comments about a nice strong signal. Stations booming in with 5/7 to +20 over 9.

From 2:00 PM until 10:00 PM we made over 130 contacts, operated SSB (successfully) from 7 counties. 5 of the counties with 10 or more contacts.

This road trip was definitely a blast.



The operation position was from the back seat using an archery target for a desk. We used the LDG tuner on 40-meters but bypassed that on 20-meters. The Nifty quick reference guide, and the Rig Expert antenna analyzer were handy extras.



Dan in operating position, Gordon as navigator, and Pam, WØPRS driver.

Till next year! 73, Dan

September Contest Corner

The follow is a select list from <http://www.hornucopia.com/>.

There are many more contests available on the site. I find the 8-day contest calendar useful. Thirty minutes, an hour or the full contest time is a great way to perfect a new operating mode, digital setup, or completely lose yourself if it becomes addicting.

Links to rules, where to submit logs, and other contest specific information can be found on this site.

Selected contests from 8-Day Calendar that can be found at: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/contestcal.html>

Date	Contest	Time
Sep-6	Russian RTTY WW	0000Z-2359Z
Sep-6/7	All Asia DX Contest phone	0000Z(6)-2400Z(7)
Sep-6	Ohio State Parks on the Air	1600Z-2400Z
Sep-7/8	Tennessee QSO Party	1800Z(7)-0200Z(8)
Sep-13	Arkansas QSO Party	1400Z(13)-0200Z(14)
Sep-20/21	ARRL 10 GHz and Up	<local> 0600(20)-2400(21)
Sep-20/21	Washington State Salmon Run	1600Z(20)-2400Z(21)
Sep-22	Run for the Bacon QRP	0100Z-0200Z
Sep-22	144 MHz Fall Spring	<local> 1900-2300
Sep-27/28	CQ WW DX RTTY	0000Z(27)-2400Z(28)
Sep-27/28	Texas QSO Party	1400Z(27)-0200Z(27); and 1400Z(28)-2000Z(28)



VE Testing Colorado Springs (PPRAA)

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association (PPRAA)

When:
Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec
2nd Saturday at 9 AM

Location:
Colorado Technical University (CTU)
4435 North Chestnut
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Directions:
<http://ppraa.org/ve-testing>
or contact:
Dan Martin
VE@PPRAA.org



VE Testing Woodland Park (MARC)

MOUNTAIN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB (MARC)

When:
Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov
1st Saturday at 10 AM

Location:
Woodland Park
Woodland Park Library-Community Meeting RM
218 East Midland Avenue

Directions:
<http://www.nxØg.org/ve.html>
or contact:
Wes Wilson (KØHBZ)
kØhbz@arrl.net
Call (719) 687-8758



Applicants will need the following items:

1. A valid PHOTO ID, driver's license preferred (if you do not have a valid photo ID, please call for alternative identification requirements).
2. Your FRN or SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER (now required – this includes children).
3. Your CURRENT ORIGINAL amateur radio license (if any) and a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
4. The CURRENT ORIGINAL CSCEs you have and a PHOTOCOPY for the VE Team to keep.
5. Cash, Check or Money Order for \$15 (standard ARRL VE Fee). Checks and money orders should be made out to ARRL. This covers all exams you wish to take at this VE session.

Teams, is to not allow same day retests on failed exams.

PPRAA – Colorado Springs testing only:
Anyone passing their Technician Class examination at a PPRAA test session will receive a free year's membership to the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association

NOTE: PPRAA and MARC VE Team policy, as with many VE

Ham Radio Two - Day License Class



Monument, Colorado

Sat Oct 18 and Sat Oct 25 (8 AM to 5 PM) 2014

Location: Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Station 1

The Technician license is your gateway to the world wide excitement of Amateur Radio

- ☒ Earn your ham radio Technician class radio privileges
- ☒ Pass your FCC amateur radio license exam right in class on the second day
- ☒ Multiple-choice exam, No Morse Code Required
- ☒ Live equipment demonstrations
- ☒ Learn to operate on the ham bands, 10 Meters and higher
- ☒ Learn to use the many VHF/UHF FM repeaters in Colorado
- ☒ Find out how to participate in emergency communications

There is a \$25 registration fee for the class.

In addition, students must have the required study guide:

HamRadioSchool.com Technician License Course - \$20.95

Be sure to get the second addition book, effective 2014-2018

Advanced registration is required (no later than 1 week prior to the start of the first class)

To register for the class, contact: Bob Witte KØNR

Email: bob@k0nr.com or Phone: 719 659-3727



Sponsored by the Tri-Lakes Monument Fire Radio Association

For more information on amateur (ham) radio visit www.arrl.org
or www.wedothat-radio.org

**PIKES PEAK RADIO
AMATEUR
ASSOCIATION**

Send membership application to:

Pikes Peak Radio Amateur
Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, CO 80935

General Questions:
ppraa@ppraa.org

ØBeat:
zerobeat@ppraa.org



ppraa.org

Get Radio Active, get on the air!

Membership Application:

Date: ____ / ____ / ____ New Membership: Yes / No

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Call: _____ **Class:** ____ **Phone # (____)** _____

Email: _____

Are you a ARRL member: Yes / No

Additional Family Members:

Name1: _____ **Call:** _____ **Class:** ____ **ARRL Member: Yes / No**

Name2: _____ **Call:** _____ **Class:** ____ **ARRL Member: Yes / No**

Name3: _____ **Call:** _____ **Class:** ____ **ARRL Member: Yes / No**

\$15.00 Full Member

\$10.00 Full Member over 65

\$18.00 Family Membership

\$12.00 Family Membership over 65

\$_____ **Membership Amount**

\$_____ **Scholarship Fund Donation**

\$_____ **PPRAA General Fund Donation**

\$_____ **Total**

2015 Scholarship Fund

There are multiple ways to
donate to the PPRAA

Scholarship Fund.

1. Use the form found on
this page and send it, along
with a check to PPRAA.
2. On the PPRAA web site
you can donate via PayPay
3. At club meetings
4. Directly to the our
scholarship fund.

Make checks to:
PPRAA Scholarship

The scholarship fund can be
reached at:

FAR Scholarship Committee
P.O. Box 911
Columbia, MD 21044

Ø- Beat Banner

Photo by Dan—WØRO

The Ø-Beat banner picture
was taken on or near Pikes
Peak and illustrates the
wildlife found in the area.

The theme of the banner is
Pikes Peak. If you would
like to submit pictures for
the Ø-Beat banner, please
send them to:
zerobeat@ppraa.org

Please Include “[Ø-beat]” as
part of the subject line.